

finds expression in refusal to perform those essential duties without which not merely the usefulness, but the very existence, of any nation will come to an end.

Under such conditions it is eminently appropriate that you should write the biography of that soldier-soul of France, whose splendid daring has made him stand as arch typical of the soul of the French people through these terrible four years. In this great war France has suffered more and has achieved more than any other power. To her, more than to any other power, the final victory will be due. Civilization has in the past for immemorial centuries owed an incalculable debt to France; but for no single feat or achievement of the past does civilization owe as much to France as to what her sons and daughters have done in the world war now being waged by the free peoples against the powers of the Pit.

Modern war makes terrible demands upon those who fight. To an infinitely greater degree than ever before the outcome depends upon long preparation in advance, and upon the skillful and unified use of the nation's entire social and industrial no less than military power. The work of the general staff is infinitely more important than any work of the kind in times past. The actual machinery of battle in BO vast, delicate and complicated that years are needed to complete it. At all points we need the immense need of thorough organization and machinery ready far in advance of the day of trial But this does not moan

that there is
any less need than before of those qualities of
endurance
and hardihood, of daring and resolution, which
in their sum
make up the stem and enduring valor which
has been and
ever will be the mark of mighty victorious
armies.

The air service in particular is one of such
peril that
membership in it is of itself a high distinction.
Physical address, high training, entire fearlessness, iron
nerve and fer-
tile resourcefulness are needed in a
combination and to a de-
gree hitherto unparalleled in war. The
ordinary air fighter
is an extraordinary man; and the
extraordinary air fighter
stands as one in a million among his fellows.
Guynemer